NOTES ON HAWAIIAN PSYCHOTRIA (RUBIACEAE)
HAWAIIAN PLANT STUDIES 65

Harold St. John
Bishop Museum, Box 6037, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96818, USA.

Here discussed and reclassified are two taxa of Hawaiian Psychotria.

Rubiaceae

Psychotria longissima (Rock) comb. nov.
Straussia longissima Rock, Indig. Trees Haw. Is. 447-448, 1913, pl. 185.
P. kaduana (C. & S.) Fosb.. sensu Sohmer, in part, Lyonia: 148, 155, fig. 63, 1977.

Sohmer in his monograph of the Hawaiian species of Psychotria (l. c. 148) reduced this species to the synonymy of S. kaduana, which he said, "must be treated as a large, extremely polymorphic taxon with a large number of intrinsic variations." He cites it as growing on Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, and Maui. The plant described by Rock, and here resurected, has pendent inflorescences with peduncles 10-20 cm long, and the blades subsessile, obovate, but long cuneate to the base. It occurs only on Oahu, mostly in the leeward valleys of the Koolau Range, east of Honolulu, but rarely elsewhere in the mountains of Oahu. The holotype is Rock 10,200, Nuuanu Valley (BISH). This tree is easily recognized, has a distinct range, and seems better classified as a species, just as Rock did.

Psychotria mauiensis Fosb., var. subcordata (Rock) comb. nov.
Straussia Hillebrandii Rock, var. subcordata Rock, Indig. Trees Haw. Is. 448, 1913.
P. mauiensis sensu Sohmer, in part, Lyonia 1: 171, 174, 1977, non Fosb., (1964).

Holotype: Hawaiian Islands, Molokai Island, pali of Wailau, April 1910, J. F. Rock 7,072 (BISH). Type examined. Isotype (GH).

Specimens Examined: Hawaiian Islands, Molokai

Island, Kaluaha, April 1910, J. F. Rock 7,054 (BISH).

Discussion: In his monograph Sohmer (1977: 172) discusses this tree with subcordate blades, reduces it to S. mauiensis, and asserts, "The taxonomic approach must recognize a large, polymorphic taxon with inherent variation." Sohmer reduces to synonomy about half of the species and varieties described and accepted by Hillebrand, Rock, and Fosberg. They were serious botanists and each had many years of field experience with these trees, then classed as the genus Straussia. The writer has had even more years of field work and innumerable contacts with these common trees. His conclusions on their classification are closer to those of Hillebrand, Rock, and Fosberg, than to those of Sohmer whose years in Hawaii were few. The writer sees no reason why his taxonomy "must" agree with that of Sohmer.

The var. subcordata differs from var. mauiensis by having broadly elliptie blades, cordate or subcordate at base, while var. mauiensis has them from elliptic to oblanceolate or suborbicular, and narrowly to broadly cuneate at base. The species P. mauiensis occurs on Molokai, Maui, Lanai, and Hawaii.